



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

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UUCGT Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 4:00pm

Senior Spiritual Leader

Rabbi Chava Bahle
rabbi@uucgt.org

Director of Lifespan Experience

Sarah Montgomery-Richards
dle@uucgt.org

Director of Music

John Bailey
peracola@gmail.com

Office Administrator

Susan Sherman
office@uucgt.org

Business Administrator

Sheri Novak
bookie@uucgt.org

Board of Trustees

Karl Love, President
Mike McDonald, President Elect
Don Pyne, Secretary
Kay Sturgeon, Treasurer
Tom Darnton, Trustee
Linda Fletcher, Trustee
Laura Matchett, Trustee

UUCGT Board Meeting

Monday, March 19
5:30 pm

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

MARCH SERVICES

March Theme: History and Heritage

Sunday, March 4 - Rabbi Chava Bahle, Amanda Mangiardi

9:00 AM Adult Program / Discussion: “12 Steps to a Compassionate Life”

10:30 AM Service: “International Women's Day”

International Women's Day takes place on March 8. Join us for this service honoring UU women's voices and music. We'll look at IWD themes and the effect of the women's marches locally and nationally. We will celebrate through women's music and readings.

Sunday, March 11 - Rabbi Chava Bahle, Betsy Emdin

9:00 AM: Program Council Meeting

10:30 AM Service: “The Season of Nonviolence”

The Gandhi King Season for Nonviolence (SNV) continues in cities across the globe. The purpose of the campaign is to focus educational and media attention on the philosophy of attaining peace through nonviolent action. Our service will focus on celebrating the words and ideas of great visionary leaders, like Gandhi, King, Mandela and the Dalai Lama, as well as other voices who call for nonviolent noncooperation to protest injustice.

Sunday, March 18 - Rabbi Chava Bahle, Max O'Bear

9:00 AM Adult Program / Discussion: “12 Steps to a Compassionate Life”

10:30 AM Service: “Celebrating Irish Music and Tall Tales: The Wearing of the Green”

Join us this St. Patrick's Day weekend as we celebrate the beloved music and tall tales of the Irish tradition. Rabbi Chava will offer a reflection on UU inspirations for how we are morally obliged to treat immigrants to the United States and how we can help from right here in northern Michigan.

Sunday, March 25 - Lay-led service with Rev. Karen Welch

(No 9:00 AM Program)

10:30 AM Service: “Palm Sunday”

A Christian Holy Day, Palm Sunday marks the day the people of Jerusalem “rose up” to escort Jesus on a triumphant entry into the city. What situations in our city, our country, and our world cause us to want to rise up to be part of an effort to make changes for the better? And what can we do as one individual, one congregation to start a triumphant March for change?

BEACON Article Deadline:
No later than the 25th of the month
preceding the issue date

Editor, Stan Cain

Send submissions to
beacon@uucgt.org

APRIL SERVICES

April Theme: The Practice of Sabbath

*"Sometimes I have loved the peacefulness of an ordinary Sunday.
It is like standing in a newly planted garden after a warm rain.
You can feel the silent and invisible life."*

- Marilynne Robinson, "Gilead"

Sunday, April 1 - Rabbi Chava Bahle, Andi Kramer
(No 9:00 AM Program)

10:30 AM Easter Service: "A Peaceful Sunday"

"As the first hint of green begins to peek through the barren ground, as that little sprig grows into a healthy stem, as that stem grows into a stalk and forms a bud, as that bud slowly opens with each new day, to form a yellow daffodil, let us be, like that first hint of green, renewed by the warm of the sun's rays and ready to emerge with a new energy, ready to face the day." From *Like the First Hint of Green* by Jennifer McGlothlin.

Sometimes with all the hardships of the world, we need a peaceful morning of hope.

Sunday, April 8 - Rabbi Chava Bahle, Hal Gurian
9:00 AM Program Council

10:30 AM Service: "Joy as Sabbath"

When the world challenges our highest values, how can we cultivate joy, and even some laughter? In the words of Joseph Cleveland, "May we hear the melody of Life and find ourselves singing harmony. May we be open to the dissonances in the Song of the Land and Its People, that we might be part of the World's urging toward Justice, Peace, and Love. May we feel in our bones the rhythms of Life and the Land, and find ourselves dancing."
A new member orientation will take place following the service.

Sunday, April 15 - Lay-led Service

9:00 AM Adult Program / Discussion: "12 Steps to a Compassionate Life" - Sarah Montgomery-Richards

10:30 AM Service: TBA

Sunday, April 22 - Rabbi Chava Bahle, Amanda Mangiardi

9:00 AM Adult Program / Discussion: "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life"

10:30 AM Service: "The Sacred Pause: Present Moment, Wonderful Moment" - A Mostly Silent, Contemplative Service

From "Meditation on Hope and Love in a Time of Struggle," by Alice Anacheka-Nasemann:

"In a world so filled with brokenness and sorrow it would be easy to lose ourselves in never ending grief, to be choked by our outrage, to be paralyzed by the enormity of suffering, to feel our hearts squeeze tight with hopelessness. Instead, this morning, let us simply breathe together as we hold our hearts open. Breathing in as our hearts fill with compassion ..."

Using the well known symbols of our services – the chalice, the bell, joys and concerns – we will share a mostly silent, contemplative style service with chant and reflection to deepen our work of being present in the moment.

Sunday, April 29 - Rabbi Chava Bahle, Paula Ward

9:00 AM Adult Program / Discussion: "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life"

10:30 AM Service: "A Day of Mindfulness"

What do the world's traditions teach us about Sabbath keeping? What practices are resonant with Unitarian Universalism? What would a day of mindfulness look like? What are the scientific benefits of mindfulness practice?

At this morning's service, will also welcome new UUCGT members.



Rabbi's Reflection

The Courage to Show Up

"Courage is the most important of all the virtue because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently."
- Maya Angelou

The dictionary defines courage as "the ability to do something that frightens one" and "strength in the face of pain or grief." As I write this reflection, students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School will walk for the first time through the doors of the place they saw their friends murdered and injured by a 19 year old former classmate with an AR-15. What kind of courage must it take to return to such a place? Stop to think about that for a moment: the courage these young people need to return to school.

When I reflect on courage in my own life, I think about my parents picking up and rebuilding after their son, my brother Robby, died, choosing life, rather than dropping anchor in permanent grief.

I think about those who have inspired me with their courage: Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, the Dalai Lama. (I, too, think of the biblical tales I learned as a child about King David, then a boy, facing off against Goliath, Queen Esther, Moses facing Pharaoh.) Over and over as I survey the idea of courage in my life, I have many models of people (both historical and mythic) who had the courage to show up when it counted.

How fortunate we are to be a beloved community, both UUCGT and the greater Traverse City area, where again and again ordinary people show up to speak out, to support, to protest, to bring comfort.

It take courage to show up for the moments of both protest and pastoral comfort, and we have many models right here in UUCGT for such courage.

We are living in a time when showing up is increasingly important. Studies on loneliness indicate that communities like ours which offer visits, a helping hand, a kind word, are increasingly important. We are living against a political backdrop that repeatedly calls us to make our voices heard on the issues of the day. Part of the reason UUCGT exists - to care, to share the journey and to repair the world - is to be a place that helps us reflect upon and grow in courage.

Thank you for supporting UUCGT and thank you for showing up.

Bowing in deepest respect -

Rabbi Chava

Opportunities for Community Engagement Gun Reform Events

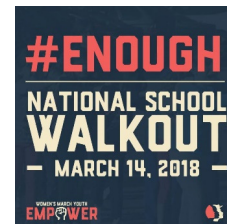
March 3, 2018: TC Rally for Gun Reform - 1:00pm @ The Workshop Brewing Company (221 Garland Street, Traverse City)

Proceed peacefully through downtown Traverse City & then line Grandview Parkway. Afterwards head back to The Workshop Brewing Co. to hear a couple of speeches & have time to connect, network, take action. Bring your signs & voices.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/180876762688077/>

March 14, 2018: #ENOUGH National School Walk-Out @ 10:00 AM Traverse City - Yes, we are walking out at 10:00 AM for 17 Minutes.

Stand Together at the intersection of Munson Avenue and Milliken Drive near NMC and TC Central High School. Co-organized by UUCGT - contact office@uucgt for more information.



"Women's March Youth EMPOWER is calling for students, teachers, school administrators, parents and allies to take part in a #NationalSchoolWalkout for 17 minutes at 10:00 am across every time zone to protest Congress' inaction to do more than tweet thoughts and prayers in response to the gun violence plaguing our schools and neighborhoods." More info here: <https://www.womensmarch.com/enough/> and here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1767175080245694/>

March 24, 2018: A march in conjunction with events organized by the students of Florida. Students and families of March For Our Lives will take to the streets of Washington, DC to demand that their lives and safety become a priority and that we end gun violence and mass shootings in our schools today. Corresponding rallies in Traverse City, Grand Rapids and Detroit, as well as others across the country. See rallylist.com for the event nearest you.

April 20, 2018: 19th anniversary of the Columbine shooting #NationalSchoolWalkout is being called for by Connecticut student, Lane Murdock, and others. Murdock lives just 20 minutes from Sandy Hook Elementary School. The plan calls for high school students to walk out on April 20 - no time has been specified as yet. See [Twitter](https://twitter.com), as well as a [Change.org](https://change.org) petition page. More information here: <https://networkforpubliceducation.org/national-day-action/>

UUA and Denominational News from Rabbi Chava

UUA Midyear Report

Who Are We and On What Do We Focus?

UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray has released the organization's midyear report, with a focus on Collaborative Leadership, Public Witness, Covenantal Relationships and Challenging Systemic Oppression. At the conclusion of the report, she and COO Carey McDonald conclude, "The UUA's historic opportunity to realign is an urgent and powerful calling of our time. It can feel like an impossible task at times to hold true to that calling to create a more just and equitable religious tradition and we are clear that there are no single answers or approaches that will suffice. This is no time for a casual faith. We also affirm that this calling is one that extends to every Unitarian Universalist to find their place in the transformation of our faith movement. We welcome your engagement and your feedback, even when it is difficult to receive, because we know this is no time to go it alone. Together, we can help Unitarian Universalism focus on its highest calling to become an ever-stronger force for justice and compassion in the world." To read the full report visit <http://bit.ly/UUA2018Midyear>

General Assembly is Coming!

This is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. General Assembly 2018 (June 20-24) will take place in Kansas City, MO and online.

MidAmerican Region

As one of over 200 congregations in the MidAmerica Region, we have access to amazing resources as a congregation. I encourage everyone to visit <https://www.midamericauua.org/> to learn more about what is happening.

MidWest Leadership School

MidWest Leadership School (MWLS) will be held from July 15 - 21 on the campus of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

There is an Adult School and a Youth School, and we are unique among UU leadership schools in that the schools are designed to do several activities together and safely interact.

MWLS creates opportunities to learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism, about yourself as an individual, and your role as a member of a congregation in a larger movement grounded in liberal theology.

MWLS attendees come away from the experience with a better understanding of healthy organizational practices.

Webinars/Webinar Recordings

Did you know there are dozens of amazing webinars available to you because you are a member of UUCGT?

Check out the offerings here <http://bit.ly/2rhzJAE>.

The UU Institute is another great resource for courses on congregational life and leadership.

Learn more here: <https://www.uuinstitute.org/>

Rabbi Chava Bahle
rabbi@uucgt.org

9 AM Sunday Programs



Under the leadership of Sarah Montgomery-Richards, DLE and Rabbi Chava, we are gathering on several Sundays at 9 AM to study Karen Armstrong's text, *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.

Two groups at UUCGT are currently studying the text: Shantideva Fan Club on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM and a contemplative discussion group on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM.

Shantideva Fan Club meets March 8 and March 22;
9:00 AM Sunday programs will meet March 4 and March 18.

All are welcome to join the conversation!

**Biv'rachot/In Blessing -
Rabbi Chava**

The text grew out of Armstrong's award by the TED Foundation to build an International Charter for Compassion. The charter, which began in 2008, is a powerful guide for creating a compassionate life, family and community.

All About Us - Congregational Care Team

We hold in our hearts

Nancy Doughty - as she recovers from surgery...now at Orchard Creek Rehab Unit...

Jo Matthews - who is recovering now at home.

We grieve the loss of long term members

Sally Mitchell, artist & historian, who gave us pictures of UU history to remember and help understand our Unitarian heritage. We grieve with her daughter, Emily Mitchell, and the rest of her family.

Dr. Bob Williams, whose generous donation of land and matching funds gave us the lovely property and building that we now call the UUCGT home.

Jeanne Dzik, retired school librarian and teacher, world traveler and member of Benzie County Democrats and UUCGT - with warm thoughts to Jeanne's family.

We are mindful of those at home in care of families or others

Nancy Landfair
Karen Culp
Peg Kauffman
Anne Olney
Carol Still

We share in the joys of

A second grandson for Jim & Mary Ann Linsell.

Congratulations to the new recipients of the Gamble Award!

Max Old Bear and Donna Stein Harris! You have both earned it!

Judith Briggs, CCT Member
jbriggs002@centurytel.net

Program Council News - November 2017

Program Council met February 11, 2018 with 11 UUCGT members present.

Karl Love informed us of the annual process for evaluating our Spiritual Leader and handed out copies of the survey that he would like each committee chair or designee to complete and return to him by March 4th.

Mike McDonald (Co-Chair, Pledge Campaign) reported a new Time and Talent sheet will be included with each pledge packet along with an information letter and Pledge form. The pledge campaign starts February 25th with a blessing of the packets and all in attendance will receive a packet. Packets will also be distributed the following two Sundays. We hope all members and friends will fill out the Pledge form and Time and Talent sheets and return them to the office. Pledge forms will be used to determine expected revenue for the 2018 - 2019 fiscal year and thus plan a budget. The Time and Talent sheets will be shared with UUCGT committee chairs and leaders to help focus individuals toward activities that fit their interests.

Previous months discussions have centered on defining additional congregational activities similar to our successful Thanksgiving Feast. Rabbi Chava Bahle suggested we have a St. Patrick's Day Soup Luncheon on March 18th following the Irish themed service that Max Old Bear is planning. Committees will be providing soup, bread and beverages.

Dave Halsted and Price Watts of the Facilities Committee reported they are investigating both a new projection system for the sanctuary as well as an easy to use defibrillator to have at UUCGT for emergency use.

Barb McClellan of the Arts and Exhibition Committee reported that a new exhibit of paintings and art owned or created by members is now hung in the Corridor Gallery hallway. Take a look as you pass through!

Jane Fochtman reported that Community Needs Committee had recently distributed this past quarter's collection to Meals on Wheels, Safe Harbor and New Lyfe Restorations for repair of bicycles that are then donated to those in need. Funds were also provided for a refrigerator for TBAISD's new campus for storage of fresh food for their hunger program.

Sandra McDonald reported the Hospitality Committee is planning on purchasing a new Bunn Commercial coffee maker and 4 airpots that will facilitate making just the right amount of coffee on Sundays.

Chris Walter of Membership Committee reported that the orientation and new member activities for January and February were canceled due to no registrants. The next Orientation is scheduled for April 8th with a New Member Welcome Service on April 29th. If you are interested in becoming a member or know of someone who is interested, help make sure they register for Orientation.

Next Program Council meeting is scheduled for March 11th and I invite all committee chairs, their designee or any interested individual to attend this meeting to learn more about the committees that help keep UUCGT running.

Richard Walter
Chair, Program Council
rick9709@sbcglobal.net

LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS NEWS - WINTER 2018

Since summer, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of so many, important work continues to be done in our communities. The 'other side' of the basket makes the following possible:

1. \$ 250 to NW Michigan Health to supply oral health packets to migrant children
2. \$ 150 to Child & Family Services for emergency backpacks for teens
3. \$ 325 to Father Fred for their emergency transportation fund
4. \$ 325 to Michael's Place to provide art supplies, books, and their Monday evening meal
5. \$ 325 to Planned Parenthood of TC for their ongoing efforts
6. \$ 350 to Traverse City Beauty College to provide vouchers to school counselors for back-to-school haircuts
7. \$ 250 to Empty Bowls to be a table sponsor for their fundraiser
8. \$1500 to Polestar as they get closer to having a facility where teens can meet
9. \$ 600 to Safe Harbor for UU's contribution for meals
10. \$ 100 to Street Voices for 10 copies of their publication and a rack at our entryway
11. \$ 150 to Women's Resource Center for stocking stuffers for the moms
12. \$ 700 to Traverse Bay Area ISD/New Campus to purchase a refrigerator for their new food pantry. This will allow for fresh fruits and veggies
13. \$ 300 to Rob Burroughs of New Lyfe Bicycle repair to repurpose bikes and put into the hands of kids, many of whom are disabled
14. \$ 300 to NW Michigan COA/Meals on Wheels
15. \$1000 to Safe Harbor to support its administrative and operation expenses

Wow...unbelievable...and incredibly generous. Look how many folks we can impact if we do it together!

Thanks,

Jane Fochtman, chair

jane.fochtman@gmail.com



Soup-er St. Paddy's Lunch!

Sunday, March 18th following the Sunday Service!
This will be a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship and fantastic soup, bread, treats & beverages donated by various UUCGT committees. Please plan to join us!

Announcements

Benzie County UU Services

The Benzie County Unitarian Universalists will meet March 7 and March 21 at Grow Benzie, 5885 Frankfort Highway, Benzonia, MI.

A potluck will commence at 6:30 followed by a program at 7:30.

On March 7th we will listen to a podcast by Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar, senior minister at All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

“When the world is darker, the inner life of the soul becomes more important” - a time for finding a stillness inside ourselves, a time of taking stock and replenishing. Discussion will follow.

On March 21st there will be presentations from various groups in Benzie County who have benefited from financial contributions from the BCUU and decisions will be made concerning contributions for this year. Questions? Call Laurie Mason, 231-889-4718

“To cherish what remains of the Earth
and to foster its renewal
is our only legitimate hope of survival.”
- Wendell Berry

Laurie Mason
Benzie County UU
616-540-5255

UU Book Club



Are we being teased or is Spring hiding around the corner? The melting snow and warmer temps have certainly offered some hope!

As we wind down the winter season, our March book is a wonderful story about men's hockey. And if you aren't a sports fan, author Fredrik Backman includes young love and trauma to keep interest at a fever pitch. The book is *Beartown* and our gathering to discuss it is **March 11** at the apartment of Karen Welch (1620 Maple Ridge Way) at 2:00 p.m.

Explicit directions to Karen's home will be sent to all club members with the RSVP email.

Enjoy an exciting read!

Karen Welch
kwelch1941@gmail.com

Calendar continued from back page

APRIL 2018

01	Sun	Easter Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM	11	Wed	Executive Committee-Agenda Karl Love 11:00 PM
01	Sun	Mindfulness Meditation (1st Sunday) 2:30 - 6:30 PM	11	Wed	Landscape Committee Lauren Keinath 2:30 PM
02	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs SH 11:00 AM	11	Wed	Wednesday Supper/\$5 Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM
02	Mon	UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM	11	Wed	Endowment Committee Maura Brennan 7:00 PM
03	Tue	Community Lunch 10:30 set-up @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak	12	Thu	Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
03	Tue	Indivisible GT Rick Walter 11:30 AM	12	Thu	Brewing Community John Hoffmann The Workshop 5-7 PM
03	Tue	Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM	12	Thu	Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
04	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs SH 11:00 AM	12	Thu	Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM
04	Wed	Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald SH 5:30 PM	13	Fri	Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30-9:00 PM
04	Wed	Speaker, Liz Kirkwood, FLOW John Hoffmann 7:00 PM	14	Sat	Singing Sisters Linda Hebert 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
05	Thu	Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 9:30 AM			
05	Thu	Congregational Care Team Joanie Jackson/Pat Light 1:00 PM	15	Sun	Adult Learning Program Sarah Montgomery Richards 9:00AM
05	Thu	Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM	15	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM
05	Thu	Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM	15	Sun	Mindfulness Meditation 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
05	Thu	Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM	16	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
06	Fri	Facilities Committee Dave Hasted SH 10:00 AM	16	Mon	UUCGT Board Meeting Karl Love 5:30 PM
07	Sat	InterPlay Workshop Lee Edwards 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM	17	Tue	Community Lunch 10:30 set-up @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
			17	Tue	Indivisible GT Rick Walter 11:30 AM
08	Sun	Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM	17	Tue	Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
08	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	18	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
08	Sun	Orientation for Prospective Members Chris Walter 12-1 PM	18	Wed	Lifespan Experience Sarah Montgomery Richards 12:00 PM
08	Sun	Book Club Emmy Lou Cholak UUCGT 2:00 PM 4:00 PM	18	Wed	Sunday Services Committee H Gurian, A Mangiardi 4:00 PM
08	Sun	Mindfulness Meditation 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	18	Wed	Membership Committee Chris Walter 4:15 - 5:30 PM
09	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM	18	Wed	Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM
09	Mon	Board Executive Committee Karl Love 5:00 PM	19	Thu	Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 9:30 AM
09	Mon	Indivisible GT, TC, Leelanau Rick Walter 5:30 PM	19	Thu	Congregational Care Team Joanie Jackson/Pat Light 1:00 PM
10	Tue	Community Lunch 10:30 set-up @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak	19	Thu	Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
10	Tue	Bridge Group Paul Christ SH 1:00 PM	19	Thu	Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
10	Tue	Leadership Development Joe Cook 5:00 PM	19	Thu	Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM
10	Tue	Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM			
11	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM			

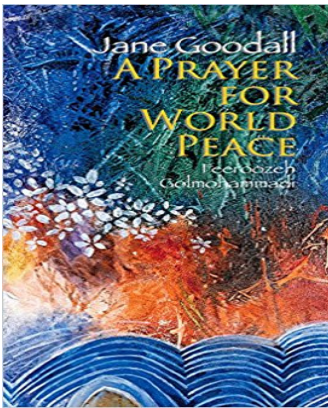


Lifespan Experience

Greetings Friends!

Sundays in March for pre k-8th grade

We're very excited to be starting our "Environment Horcrux" in March, and we will continue this through April. We will spend our time engaging in lessons and stories that promote environmental stewardship, as well as considering the ways in which we can get involved in our community in this regard. This will include reaching out to UUCGT committees who engage in this kind of work, thus connecting the generations of our congregation in new and wonderful ways.

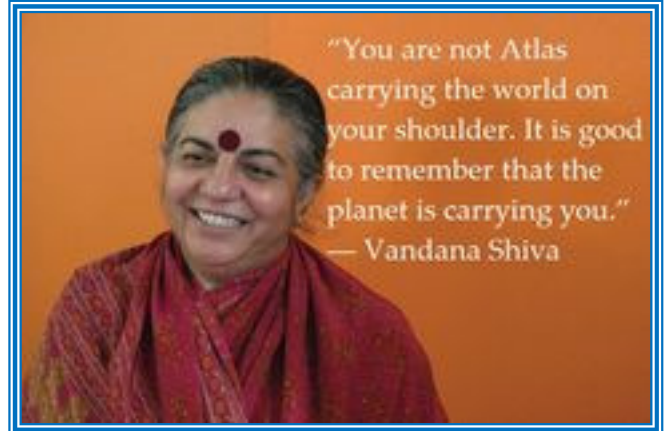


Suggested reading for families/parents this month:

This month we have a very timely book not only about our connections with the earth, but about peace in our world.

A Prayer for World Peace by: Jane Goodall

"...Jane Goodall is a world-renowned naturalist who brings her passion and her quest for understanding between all the Earth's creatures to the fore in this beautiful and affecting prayer for world peace. She asks us all to rise above our dogmas, to bring a spirit of generosity to the living world around us, to pray for justice and for those who are suffering. Illustrated with rich and colorful artwork, this is prayer that's both personal and universal and one that will speak to people of all ages from all backgrounds". <https://goo.gl/4LZkVP>



Friday Night Out! March 9th - 5:30-9:00 pm – Contact me ASAP to reserve a spot!

Adult Lifespan Experience Classes Continue in March at 9:00 AM!

Together we are reading Karen Armstrong's "12 Steps to a Compassionate Life" - This month we will meet on March 4th (please read Chapter 2 for this session) and 18th (please read Chapters 3 & 4 for this session) - All are welcome in this book study!

Soup-er St. Paddy's Lunch – Sunday, 3/18!

The Lifespan Committee will help with the "Soup-er St. Paddy's" lunch following the service on 3/18. This idea, announced by Rabbi Chava at the Program Council on 2/11, is a spin-off on the old "Chili Cook-Off" that we did for several years. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship and fantastic soup, bread, and treats donated by the UUCGT committees following the Sunday Service. Please plan to join us!

Brewing Community!

Brewing Community is a fun opportunity to gather with friends young and old, share some food and beverage, and connect over light-hearted conversation. See you from 5:00-7:00 pm at The Workshop Brewing Company on March 8 and March 22.

Wednesday Supper Schedule!

1st/ 3rd Wednesdays are Potluck, 2nd Wednesdays are \$5 (adult)/\$3 (children 10 & under), and 4th Wednesdays are now PIZZA NIGHT with the cost of the meal (snacks, salad, pizza, dessert) shared by those who participate. If there happens to be a 5th Wednesday, we have switched those to a themed-dinner night - \$5 (adult)/\$3 (children 10 & under). Hope to see you this month!

As always, be kind to yourselves, kind to each other, and send loving kindness out into the universe.

In Peace,
Sarah Montgomery-Richards, MA
Director of Lifespan Experience
dle@uucgt.org

Social Justice

There is an amazing reality book to read. No fake news in it. It is many riveting pages of a true story of how a company polluted the surroundings and evaded any prosecution, and how government workers and others cooperated with them in their evasions.

This story began in Cincinnati where I grew up... I remember seeing the polluted Miami River and its many color changes and the smell. As a youngster, I really remember hoping that no duck would land there. I feared for its life. That river is mentioned in the book as is my neighbor scientist who lived across the street. His son baby-sat for my sons. That story goes from Cincinnati to eventually Toms River, New Jersey. Read the book to find where it is now. *Toms River - A Story of Science and Salvation* by Dan Fagin.

In the book, they talk about the problems children had, some from birth and some affected later in life. The birth defects, the illnesses, and the horror are inexcusable! Children and whole families disturbed and turned upside down caring for their loved ones who became ill and defective for life. It begins with the story of a verbal, bright lad who is deformed and has painful tumors all over his body. He was born beautiful and gradually developed these tumors. From where did they come? Kids played in yards right next to fenced areas. What was behind the fences? Everyone worked at the new plant, but what was going on there? Steam and air vents, as well as water waste was held back. Opening the water holding areas and venting the steam and air releases, were all discharged at night time when no one could see or would hopefully not smell them. What was in all that stuff?

Toms River is the name of the town in New Jersey. It was a quiet town back then with a beach that nearby locals came to enjoy in the summer. It was near the expressway so it was easy access. The officials of the chemical plant were aware and knew how to do things. They offered help wherever needed, were active in the community, got to be known as founders of good causes. Surely they would do no harm. Right? The local water plant was small then. It was a small town. It could not handle the waste from the plant. Much of it just went through without going through the overloaded waste cleansing process. People drank it, children lived on it. And they all breathed the air, too.

When the water problem got to be too much, the plant owners asked and obtained permission to run a pipe directly to the ocean. It would be a long pipe and release the wastewater way out towards the sea. And like air, the water never comes to the people on the shore. It would not bother the beautiful seashore loved by all, locals and visitors alike.

Eventually things changed as the locals realized what was happening and rebelled. But the damage was done. The plant made some amends. For one thing - they closed and moved. Guess where they are now?

Read the book and find out. *Toms River* by Dan Fagin.

Emmy Lou Cholak
sjatcmi@gmail.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of January 31, 2018
(58.3% of fiscal year)

	<u>Current Year</u>		<u>Prior Year</u>	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$186,260	68.0%	\$186,752	68.3%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$157,394	57.4%	\$149,428	55.2%
"For Those in Need" YTD	\$ 14,084		\$ 9,374	

Budgeted income includes the total of all pledged and unpledged donations and miscellaneous income, including building rent, etc. "For Those in Need" collections are in addition to Budgeted Income Received and are disbursed quarterly to worthy causes, including Congregational Care, Tuesday Community Lunch and other Community needs outside our congregation. The percentage reflects the portion of the total amount of income or expense budgeted for the fiscal year.

Several members have chosen to prepay their pledge for 2017-2018. This has resulted in a solid surplus going into the second half of the year. Please keep your pledges up to date so we can continue this success. If you want more detailed information, you can look at our website, click on Board, then on Board Packet, then on Statement of Financial Activity.

Questions can be directed to your Finance Committee Chair, Mike McDonald (m_mcdonald@charter.net) or to other members of the Finance Committee.

The 2018 Gamble Awards

Gamble Award Recipient Max Old Bear Presented by Jane Watts

This Renaissance man, earned a degree in literature, then gave up careers in teaching and banking to pursue his passion - wildlife and the great outdoors.

He found his first job with the National Park Service as park ranger at Isle Royale, family in tow. Early assignments in The Everglades, Mount Rainier, and Mammoth Cave ultimately led to the position of biologist and acting Chief Scientist for The Great Lakes Area and Midwest Region.

In 1978, longing to get back into the field in hands-on management, he requested a transfer to the new Sleeping Bear Dunes Park. Here, he worked on the natural resources management plan, resource preservation, and establishing a designated wilderness portion.

He has been a guardian of and crusader for **wildlife** – “**all things great and small**”: endangered wildflowers, dunes, Piping Plovers, and, UUCGT.

This individual has served our Congregation in so many ways since joining in January 1997. Time and again, he has been a student and team member willing to listen intently and to share his ideas and wisdom. He is seen early Sunday mornings in the sanctuary, sitting contemplatively, listening to music being practiced for the day's service.

He was a Board Trustee and then president from 2011 – 2013. In addition, he has been a Sunday service coordinator and presenter numerous times; a ready and willing greeter and office volunteer for years; a worker at Tuesday Community Meals and Safe Harbor; a guide for us on hikes at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

For one whose sanctuary is the great outdoors, we say, “Go now in peace”, **White Buffalo**, preserving what is sacred and natural now and for the future - for UUCGT and for this planet.

Max Old Bear! TAKE A HIKE – but move quietly through the forest.

Gamble Award Recipient Donna Stein Harris Presented by Anne Hughes

Some people don't require decades to receive a lifetime achievement award like this one. Service can be deep as well as wide.

This year's second Gamble Award goes to a member of 4 years or so. In that time she served on the Sunday Services Committee and briefly on the Board as a Trustee. Outside the congregation she owned a company, consulted nationally and internationally on issues of health and safety. In short, she has great credentials. But that's not how she touched hearts here at UU. And that's not what inspired her friend to say of her - “She's probably the strongest woman I've ever known.”

In the face of enormous challenge, she didn't look away, she investigated. Then, she organized a discussion group at UU that allowed participants to explore topics that most people try to avoid. She drew on her skills as an able facilitator, creating an environment of safety and commitment. She helped people feel comfortable participating. No small feat when the topic is being mortal.

The recipient of this year's key is **Donna Stein Harris**.

The Death Café she started at UU lasted two years. It was not a grief support group. It was a study group. Death Café is an example of excellence in a congregation that values small group ministry. Participants said things like: This is such an interesting group of people. This was an authentic experience, it was real.

And one last thing, Donna has a good sense of humor. She recently sent an email asking: “Is there such a thing as life after Death Café?” I believe your group would say, yes. And be richer for it.



Calling All Past Gamble Award Winners!

Friends, what a joy it is to celebrate our volunteers each year with the Gamble Awards!

I am writing to let you know that in the weeks ahead I will be reaching out to all our past winners to ask for a gathering. I want to have a listening session with these deeply committed volunteers on how we can encourage and support new generations of volunteers at UUCGT. Thank you all, again, for your service.

And congratulations to Max Old Bear and Donna Stein Harris, and to this year's presenters, Jane Watts and Anne Hughes.

Rabbi Chava



Membership News

MARCH - Will Winter soon be over?

Greetings from the entire FUN and FRIENDLY Membership Team - Volunteer members Sherry Davis, John and Pinkie Hoffmann, Sue Pyne, Chris Walter, Rick Walter, and Jane Watts — who continue to Welcome, Greet, Facilitate into Membership, and Nurture (in Partnership with other groups at UUCGT) prospective, new and current members.

Mark your Calendars and Let Others Know

Orientation for Prospective Members - April 8, 2018

11:45 am - 12:45 pm, Sanctuary

A Getting acquainted and Getting your UU questions answered session - Don't Miss it!

Sign up at the Welcome Table - by March 25 if your children will need childcare.

New Member Welcome Service - April 29, 2018

New Members introduce themselves and are Welcomed in a very special portion of the Sunday Service.

BE A GREETER MINISTRY

Please share your smile and Welcoming Spirit. It's easy! Just sign up on the bulletin board near the office. Greet just one Sunday, or sign up for a regular or semi-regular shift.

Job description is posted on the bulletin board, but simply requires you to:

- 1) **Smile**
- 2) **Say** "Welcome", "Glad you're here", "How are you?"
- 3) **Hand out** Order of Service
- 4) **Count** attendees, and
- 5) **Help** with offering

Many Thanks to February Greeters:

Chris Lautz, Rick Walter, Joy Platteborze, Ken Sands, Pat Bazley, Jane Fochtman and John LaBrie.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Who Joined November 5, 2017

Geoff Norman-Anderson is UUCGT's youngest member. Geoff has been a UU since birth, regularly attending church for most of his life - at the UU Church of Riverside, CA and the Monte Vista UU Congregation in Montclair, CA. He started attending our congregation over a year ago after moving here with his parents, Kat Norman and Keith Anderson and his younger sister Ellie. Geoff enjoys community and fellowship at Wednesday night dinners and

also Adult Lifespan Experience discussions. As a high school student, Geoff is also experiencing some classes at NMC. He really digs music - he plays guitar and bass, nerd culture, video games and pop culture. He recently enjoyed reading an intriguing science fiction book, Feed by Mira Grant.

Karen Perrino is also a long-time UU since 1970. She has been a member of UU congregations in Detroit, Rockford and Santa Barbara, and most recently attended the Charlottesville UU. After attending UUCGT for about a year, Karen decided to become a member because she felt she had found a community that is welcoming to everyone and is also committed to social justice. Karen hopes for focus, challenges and a place to explore life's meaning and to deepen friendships. She enjoys worship, visiting with homeless individuals, Wednesday night dinners, Buddhist study group (Shantideva Fan Club), and Adult Lifespan Experience discussions. Karen spends time gardening, walking and reading. Her recent book shelf reads are Waking Up White by Debby Irving, Living in Gratitude by Angeles Arrien, Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Beverly Daniel Tatum, and books by Thich Nhat Hanh.

Finally, we Welcome **Katie Pierce** who learned about UUCGT through our website. Katie really enjoys the worship services and the congregation, feeling at home in our community and a part of something great. She hopes to foster relationships within this community that shares her values, to share joys and concerns and celebrate life, and to find opportunities to be of service. Katie attended several ceremonial services last Fall and realized she also would want to celebrate her life moments with our congregation. She spends time in a wide variety of pursuits including personal development learning, various arts and crafts, writing poetry, reading, swimming, hiking, kayaking and baking. Some of her favorite recent books include The Man Who Tasted Shapes, a book about synesthesia by Richard E. Cytowic, The Seat of the Soul by Gary Zukav and How to Be Everything by Emilie Wapnick.

We are very fortunate to have these new members with incredible talents, interests and caring in our midst. Take time to get to know them! The entire UUCGT community welcomes Geoff, Karen and Katie and looks forward to their continued involvement. We are very glad you are with us!

Chris and Rick Walter
Co-Chairs, Membership Team
chris9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-4776
rick9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-5174



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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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March, 2018

UUCGT Calendar

All events and programs take place at UUCGT unless otherwise noted

MARCH 2018

01	Thu	Congregational Care Team Joanie Jackson/Pat Light 1:00 PM	15	Thu	Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM
01	Thu	Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM	17	Sat	Moon Women's Circle Carolyn Kelly
01	Thu	Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM			
02	Fri	Facilities Committee Dave Hasted 10:00 AM	18	Sun	Adult Learning Program Rabbi Chava & Sarah M Richards 9 AM
03	Sat	InterPlay Workshop Lee Edwards 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM	18	Sun	Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM
			18	Sun	Soup-er St. Paddy's Day Luncheon 11:30 AM
04	Sun	Adult Learning Program Rabbi Chava & Sarah M Richards 9AM	18	Sun	Mindfulness Meditation 5:00 - 7:00 PM
04	Sun	Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM	19	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
04	Sun	Mindfulness Meditation (1st Sunday) 2:30 PM	19	Mon	UUCGT Board Meeting Karl Love 5:30 PM
05	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM	20	Tue	Community Lunch 10:30 set-up @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
05	Mon	UU Men's Group @ UUCGT Dave Halsted 5:30 PM	20	Tue	Indivisible GT Speaker Event - \$ in Politics #2 12:00 PM
06	Tue	Community Lunch 10:30 set-up @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak	20	Tue	Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
06	Tue	Indivisible GT Rick Walter 11:30 AM	21	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
06	Tue	Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM	21	Wed	Lifespan Experience Sarah Montgomery-Richards 12:00 PM
07	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM	21	Wed	Sunday Services Committee A Mangiardi/H Gurian 4:00 PM
07	Wed	Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM	21	Wed	Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM
08	Thu	Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 9:30 AM	22	Thu	Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 9:30 AM
08	Thu	Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM	22	Thu	Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
08	Thu	Brewing Community John Hoffmann The Workshop 5-7 PM	22	Thu	Brewing Community John Hoffmann The Workshop 5-7 PM
08	Thu	Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM	22	Thu	Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
08	Thu	Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM	22	Thu	Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM
09	Fri	Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30 - 9:00PM			
			25	Sun	Sunday Service - Lay-led 10:30 AM
11	Sun	Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM	25	Sun	Mindfulness Meditation 5:00 - 7:00 PM
11	Sun	Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM	26	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
11	Sun	UUCGT Book Club Karen Welch 2:00 - 4:00 PM	27	Tue	Community Lunch 10:30 set-up @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
11	Sun	Mindfulness Meditation 5:00 - 7:00 PM	27	Tue	Indivisible GT Rick Walter 11:30 AM
12	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM	27	Tue	Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
13	Tue	Community Lunch 10:30 set-up @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak	28	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 1
13	Tue	Indivisible GT Rick Walter 11:30 AM	28	Wed	Wednesday PIZZA Supper Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM
13	Tue	Staff Resources Phyllis Jessup 12:30 PM	29	Thu	Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
13	Tue	Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM	29	Thu	Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
13	Tue	Leadership Development Joe Cook 5:00 PM	29	Thu	Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM
13	Tue	Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM			
14	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM			
14	Wed	Executive Committee Karl Love 1:00 PM			
14	Wed	Wednesday Supper/\$5 Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM			
15	Thu	Congregational Care Team Joanie Jackson/Pat Light 1:00 PM			
15	Thu	Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM			
15	Thu	Policy Committee Tom Darnton Library 5:00 PM			
15	Thu	Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM			

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